BRITISH COLUMBIA | BCStats

Infoline

Contact: bcstats.infoline@gov.bc.ca Issue: 13-18 May 6th, 2013

- **The value of commodity exports from B.C. jumped 12.9% in March**
- **Sales at food services and drinking places in B.C. rose 1.0% in February**
- **National GDP expanded 0.3% in February**

The Economy

- **The value of B.C.'s commodity exports jumped 12.9% (*seasonally adjusted*) in March with growth in most major commodity categories except for metal and non-metallic mineral products, which saw shipments decline 20.7% from February.** However, while finished product exports fell, shipments of metal ores and non-metallic minerals (+93.9%) had the strongest growth. Energy products (+28.4%) were also a major contributor to overall growth.

  Exports to the United States climbed 5.8%, as higher shipments of forestry products, building & packaging materials (+9.7%), and energy products (+16.2%) helped offset a 22.3% decline in exports of metal & non-metallic mineral products. Exports to the rest of the world also grew, rising 19.0%, mainly on the strength of a doubling of shipments of metal ores and non-metallic minerals and a 34.4% jump in exports of energy products.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **Total softwood lumber production at sawmills in British Columbia dipped 0.3% (*unadjusted*) in February compared to the same month of the previous year.** The drop was chiefly due to lower production by Coastal producers (-8.7%), down for the seventh consecutive period. In B.C.'s Interior, production continued to edge up (+0.9%).

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **Sales at British Columbia's food services and drinking places inched up 1.0% (*seasonally adjusted*) in February.** The gain offset a 0.5% dip recorded in January.

  Nationally, sales edged down (-0.3%), as revenues at full service restaurants (-0.7%) and limited-service establishments (-0.2%) fell. Special food services (+0.4%) and drinking places (+0.7%) recorded higher sales. Five provinces registered increases in receipts, led by Newfoundland & Labrador (+1.2%), and bolstered by sales in Alberta (+1.1%), British Columbia (+1.0%), Saskatchewan (+0.3%), and Quebec (+0.2%). A notable decline in Ontario (-1.6%) dragged down the national average.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

The Justice System

- **There were 186,313 active civil court cases in British Columbia in 2011/2012.** Family cases accounted for 34% (63,600) of the total, slightly lower than the average of all reporting provinces (35%). There were 35,074 cases related to children, with the majority (23,052) regarding access or custody, and the remainder involving child protection (4,049) or child support (7,973) issues. The number of uncontested divorce (*with no other issues*) cases totalled 15,141, while there were 12,888 other family-related cases with no issues regarding children. There were 497 active civil court adoption cases.

  Non-family civil cases accounted for 66% (122,713) of active cases in the civil courts of British Columbia. Lawsuits for injury or damage (35,704) were the largest known component of non-family civil cases, followed by probate cases (11,731), contract disputes (9,435), and bankruptcy (6,560). Unknown non-family civil court cases (56,218) and other non-family civil actions

Did you know...

Two in ten (19%) Canadian homeowners aged 18 to 34 plan to use their credit cards to finance home improvements, nearly twice the average for all homeowners (10%).

Source: Iposos Reid & RBC

(3,065) made up the remainder of non-family civil cases before the courts.

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Juristat 85-002-x

The Nation

- **The Canadian economy expanded 0.3% (*seasonally adjusted, chained 2007 dollars*) in February.** The increase was the second in as many months, after registering a 0.2% contraction in December.

  Goods-producing industries (+0.9%) led the way, with gains in all major industries. Mining, quarrying, and oil & gas extraction (+2.2%), and manufacturing (+0.8%), the largest goods-producing industries, recorded the sharpest increases. GDP in agriculture, forestry, fishing & hunting (+0.5%) rose, following a three-month-long period of contraction. Utilities (+0.4%), and construction (+0.2%) also saw slight gains.

  On the services side, GDP was up (+0.1%) very slightly, hampered by declines in six of the major industries. The largest increase was in arts, entertainment & recreation (+3.3%), with finance & insurance (+0.2%), real estate, rental & leasing (+0.2%), health care & social assistance (+0.2%), and retail trade (+0.1%) also contributing to the gain. Declines in public administration (–0.1%), wholesale trade (–0.2%), and professional, scientific & technical services (–0.2%) dampened the overall increase. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Canadian manufacturers' selling prices were 0.9% (*unadjusted*) higher this March than in the same month of 2012.** The increase was mostly attributable to climbing prices for lumber and other wood products (+10.5%). Higher prices for motor vehicles & other transportation equipment (+2.1%), electrical & communications products (+2.0%), and pulp & paper products (+1.9%) also drove the Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI) up. The increase was tempered by a drop in prices for primary (–4.3%) and fabricated (–1.7%) metal products, petroleum and coal (–1.8%), and miscellaneous non-manufactured (–1.0%) products.

  BC producers of softwood lumber products received more (+20.1%) for their lumber than they had a year earlier, marking the fourth month of double-digit price increases. Prices for Interior lumber (+22.7%) were markedly higher, with Douglas fir (+26.2%) driving the index up. On the Coast (+12.5%), Western Red cedar (+22.7%) prices rose the most.

  The cost of raw materials continued to decline (–2.0%), curbed somewhat by higher prices for vegetable products (+2.8%) and wood (+3.5%). The drop was primarily due to lower prices for mineral fuels (–3.2%); excluding fuels, the Raw Materials Price Index (RMPI) dipped 0.8%.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **The market value of Canadian portfolio investments abroad rose 2.6% to $759.0 billion at year end in 2011, rising at a markedly slower pace than in 2010 (+14.6%).** The market value of securities issued in the United States, which accounts for 57% of Canadian portfolio investment abroad, grew 67.8%. Conversely, the value of foreign investment in Europe, which makes up 23% of portfolio investment abroad, fell (–4.5%). This was largely due to a drop in the value of securities issued in Switzerland (–14.3%), and the Netherlands (–27.0%). The market value of securities issued in Asia and Oceania (14% of portfolio investment) also dropped (–2.6%), with declines in the value of investments issued in Japan (–7.8%) and South Korea (–5.6%) mitigated slightly by increases in Hong Kong (+9.5%), China (+3.8%), and Australia (+1.9%). *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

***Infoline** Issue: 13-18*
May 6th, 2013

For data originating from Statistics Canada, data sourced to 'Statistics Canada' has been retrieved from CANSIM, the agency's electronic database; otherwise the source is identified as 'SC' plus the catalogue number.

Infoline

May 6, 2013
Issue 13-18

Email transmission information service from BC Stats

also on the Internet at **www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca** or choose RSS

BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Jan 1/2013	% change on one year ago
BC	4,639.9	0.8
Canada	35,056.1	1.1
GDP and INCOME (Released Nov 19)		
(BC - at market prices)	2011	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	217,749	4.5
GDP *($ 2007 millions)*	206,180	2.8
GDP *($ 2007 per Capita)*	45,083	1.8
Household Sector Disposable Income *($ 2007 per Capita)*	26,788	0.9
TRADE ($ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - Feb 2013	3,270	0.3
Merchandise Exports - Mar 2013	3,001	12.9
Retail Sales - Feb 2013	5,115	-0.3
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	% change on one year ago	12-month avg % change
(all items - Mar 2013)		
BC	0.5	0.8
Vancouver	0.8	1.1
Victoria	0.2	0.7
Canada	1.0	1.2
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		% change on prev. month
(seasonally adjusted)	Mar 2013	
Jobs Created (-Lost) - BC	-14.8	
Labour Force - BC	2,475.7	0.1
Employed - BC	2,302.6	-0.6
Unemployed - BC	173.1	11.9
		Feb 2013
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	7.0	6.3
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	7.2	7.0
INTEREST RATES (percent)	May 1/2013	May 2/2012
Prime Business Rate	3.00	3.00
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	3.00	3.20
- 5 year	5.14	5.44
US-CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	May 1/2013	May 2/2012
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $ per US $	1.0084	0.9891
(closing rate) US $ per Cdn $	0.9920	1.0137
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		% change on one year ago
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Mar 2013	
BC	868.14	1.1
Canada	879.01	2.2

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

2011 Census Profiles

We have added files for Health geographies, School Districts, College Regions and Ministry of Children and Family Development Regions. The file layout matches the other 2011 Profiles, simplifying comparisons to many areas . See more: http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Census/OpenData.aspx

Provincial Electoral District Profiles 2011

Posted to our Open Data page is a 2011 Census Profile for the Provincial Electoral Districts. The file layout matches the other 2011 Profiles, simplifying comparisons to many areas . See more: http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Census/OpenData.aspx

Population Estimates by Age and Sex 2012

Updated population estimates by age and sex for B.C. sub-provincial regions are now available. . . See more: http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Demography/PopulationEstimates.aspx

B.C. Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector

The 2012 edition of the profile of British Columbia's fisheries and aquaculture sector is now available. See more: http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/AboutUs/News/13-01-29/British_Columbia_s_Fisheries_and_Aquaculture_Sector.aspx

Municipal Population Estimates 2012

Population estimates for B.C. municipalities and regional districts as of July 1, 2012 are now available. See more: http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Demography/PopulationEstimates.aspx

Released last week by BC Stats

- Exports, March 2013

To Release this week

- Labour Force Statistics, April 2013
- Earnings & Employment Trends, April 2013

BC Stats, Box 9410 Stn Prov Govt, Victoria, B.C. V8W 9V1
Tel: 250-387-0327 Fax: 250-387-0380 Web: www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca E-mail: bcstats.infoline@gov.bc.ca